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James A. Colligan



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The Accent of Latin Words

and the

Sounds of Latin Letters

by

James A. Colligan, S. J.



August 15, 1919

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UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA

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JAMES A. COLLIGAN, S. J.**

PREFACE.

Book I gives a new method of teaching the accent of Latin words.

Book II contains briefly all that is known about the sounds of Latin letters.

Book II contains also a complete explanation of the different methods of dividing Latin words into syllables.

I think that the work will be useful to students of Latin and also to singers of Latin hymns.

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CONTENTS.

Accent of Latin words, book 1, No. I to XLII.

Sounds of Latin vowels and diphthongs, book 2, No. 1 to 59.

Position and hidden quantity, book 2, No. 49 to 56.

Sounds of Latin consonants, book 2, No. 59 to 77.

Division of Latin words into syllables, book 2, No. 77.

Sounds of Latin Letters 5

RULE I.

A word of two syllables is accented on the first; as, Deus, Christus, noster.

Words of More than Two Syllables.

RULE II.

When the last vowel has a vowel before it, the word is accented on the antepenult; as, con-fiteor, omnia, omnium, gloriām, gloria, gloriae, doceo, docui, petii.

Ae is considered one vowel.

The syllable before the last is called the penultimate syllable.

The second syllable before the last is termed the antepenultimate syllable.

EXCEPTIONS:

Genitives and datives of the fifth declension are accented on the penultimate; as, spe-ci-e-i, a word of four syllables is accented on the e before the final i.

Fi-de-i is accented on the antepenultimate.

In the compounds of the verb fio, penultimate i is always accented; as, satisfiat.

The following words are accented on the penultimate; Maria, unius, solius, totius, utrius, ullius, nullius, neutrius, the genitive alius, and proper nouns which in the missal and the breviary are accented on the penultimate.

The accent of Greek words must be learned from a lexicon. They are accented according to the explanation given in RULE XLI.

6 The Accent of Latin Words

RULE III.

When the last vowel in a word has h before it, the word is accented on the antepenult; as, *contraho*, *conveho*.

RULE IV.

Words ending in *itas*, *etas*, *iter*, *ibus* and *rrimus* are accented on the antepenultimate; as, *charitas*, *pietas*, *feliciter*, *omnibus* and *celeberrimus*.

EXCEPTIONS:

Nicetas and *Philetas* are accented on the penult.

RULE V.

When the penultimate vowel is followed by *qu*, the word is accented on the antepenultimate; as, *aliquis*, *alloqui*.

EXCEPTIONS:

Ubique, *utrobique*, *obliquo*, *antiquus*, *uniquus*, *obliquus* and *alioquin* are accented on the penultimate.

RULE VI.

Nouns and adjectives ending in *atilis*, *abilis*, *ibilis* and *simus* are accented on the antepenult; as, *versatilis*, *amabilis*, *terribilis*.

EXCEPTION:

Resimus is accented on the penultimate.

RULE VII.

Words ending in er preceded by one consonant are accented on the antepenult; as, ludicer, integer, arbiter, coluber, volucer, alacer.

EXCEPTIONS:

Cadaver, papaver, saluber, Meleager and Tanager are accented on the penultimate.

NOTE: For writing or scanning Latin poetry, it is well to know that the first syllable of the following ten words is long in quantity—Afer, afer, ater, crater, frater, mater, creber, tuber, a tumor and the adjectives acer and liber.

RULE VIII.

Words ending in ila, ola, ula, alus, ilus, olus, ulus, alum, olum, ulum are accented on the antepenultimate; as, aquila, filiola, epistola, ratiuncula, gladiolus, fasciculus.

EXCEPTIONS:

The following are accented on the penultimate, cunila, Dalila, Loyola, bibliopola and other words ending in pola, asilus, crocodilus, primipilus, strobilus, cuculus, Theodulus, Aristobulus and some other proper nouns.

RULE IX.

Proper nouns ending in ades, amus, olis, crates, otus, phorus, goras are accented on the antepenultimate; as, Pergamus, Christophorus, Socrates, Hermopolis, aegrotus, Pythagoras.

EXCEPTIONS:

Polynotus, Azotus, Agelades are accented on the penultimate.

RULE X.

Desiderative verbs in *urio* and verbs in *io* of the third conjugation and most verbs which have *ui* in the perfect are accented on the antepenult in the second and third person singular indicative active and in the second person singular imperative active; as, *esurio*, *esuris*, *esurit*;
percipio, *percipis*, *percipit*, *percipe*;
effugio, *effugis*, *effugit*, *effuge*;
edoceo, *edoces*, *edocet*, *edoce*;
admoneo, *admones*, *admonet*, *admon*.

EXCEPTIONS:

Compounds of *pono*, *debeo*, *floreo*, *pareo* and verbs which are accented according to Rule XVIII.

RULE XI.

Infinitives in *i* from verbs in *io* of the third conjugation are accented on the antepenult; as, *eripi*.

RULE XII.

Words ending in *atus*, *etus*, *utus*, and *etum* are accented on the penultimate; as, *equitatus*, *facetus*, *querchetum*.

EXCEPTIONS:

Compounds mentioned in number 36 and *im-petus*, *vegetus*, *arbutus*, *Aratus*, *Calistratus*, *Pisistratus*, *Philostratus*, *Prenetum*, *Paracletus*, *Taygetus* and nouns ending in *are-tus*, as *Pan-are-tus*, are accented on the antepenultimate.

RULE XIII.

Words ending in *osus*, *osa*, *ura*, *ela*, *alis*, *elis*, *ulis* and nouns ending in *do* and *go* are accented on the penult; as, *arenosus*, *mensura*, *querela*, *mortalis*, *fidelis*, *curulis*, *dulcedo*, *formido*, *forti-tudo*, *origo*, *imago*, *aerugo*.

EXCEPTIONS:

Panirosus, *Macedo*, *oxalis*, *pardalis*, *periscelis*, *Sicelis*, *Castalis*, *Hispalis*, *Magdalisi*, *harpago*, *Ab-denago*, *Arpago*, *Paphlago* are accented on the antepenult.

RULE XIV.

When the penultimate vowel is *u* followed by *n*, the word is accented on the penult; as, *tribunal*.

RULE XV.

Words ending in *brum*, *crum*, *trum* are accented on the penultimate; as, *delubrum*, *simulacrum*, *ara-trum*.

RULE XVI.

Adverbs in *tim*, foreign proper names in *icus* and *timus* are accented on the penultimate; as, *privatim*, *Ludovicus* and *Theotimus*.

10 The Accent of Latin Words

EXCEPTIONS:

Affatim and perpetim are accented on the ante-penultimate.

RULE XVII.

Penultimate i is accented when it is followed by v; as in nominativus and revivo.

RULE XVIII.

When the vowel before the last is followed by two consonants, the word is accented on the penultimate; as, audiantur, convalescit, incumbit.

EXCEPTION:

When the vowel before the last is followed by bl, cl, fl, pl, br, cr, dr, fr, gr, pr, or tr, the word must be found in a dictionary, and it must be accented according to the explanation given in RULE XLI.

RULE XIX.

When the last vowel in a word has j, x or z before it, the word is accented on the penultimate; as, eduxit, baptizo.

RULE XX.

The penultimate is accented when it is a diphthong; as in Annaeus, exaudi.

RULE XXI.

Increasing genitives ending in

idis, ilis, inis, itis,

eri, eris, ulis, uris,

and adis are accented on the antepenultimate.

EXAMPLES:

lapis, lapidis,
vigil, vigilis,
homo, hominis,
nomen, nominis,
fortitudo, fortitudinis,
sanguis, sanguinis,
hospes, hospitis,
caput, capitis,
puer, pueri,
carcer, carceris,
onus, oneris,
exsul, exsulis,
vultur, vulturis,
fulgur, fulguris,
lampas, lampadis.

EXCEPTION:

Telluris from *tellus* is accented on the penultimate.

Increasing genitives are those which have more syllables than the nominative singular; as, *pueri*, *hominis*.

The accent of the genitive of proper nouns and of Greek words must be learned from a dictionary; hence Rule XX and the following rules do not apply to them. They are accented according to the explanation given in Rule XLI.

RULE XXII.

Genitives in *atis* from nouns in *a* are accented on the antepenultimate; as, *drama*, *dramatis*.

RULE XXIII.

Genitives in *icis* from nominatives in *ex* are accented on the antepenultimate; as, *apex*, *apicis*.

RULE XXIV.

Genitives in *icis* from nominatives in *ix* are accented on the penult; as, *consolatrix*, *consolatrixis*, *cervix*, *cervicis*, *cornix*, *cornicis*, *felix*, *felicis*. The only exceptions ending in *trix* are *histrix*, *histrice*, and *natrix*, *naticis*, a serpent.

OTHER EXCEPTIONS:

The genitive of the following eleven words is accented on the antepenult: *calix*, *larix*, *salix*, *varix*, *fornix*, *filix*, *fulix*, *coxendix*, *choenix*, *helix*, *Cilix*.

RULE XXV.

Increasing genitives ending in *utis*, *tatis*, *onis*, *alis* and *oris* from nominatives in *or* are accented on the penultimate.

EXAMPLES:

virtus, *virtutis*,
dignitas, *digitatis*,
leo, *leonis*,
actio, *actionis*,
animal, *animalis*,
tribunal, *tribunalis*,
victor, *victoris*,
amor, *amoris*,
lepor, *leporis*.

EXCEPTIONS:

Castor, Castoris, rhetor, rhetoris, arbor, arboris, memor, memoris, immemor, immemoris, ador, adoris, aequor, aequoris, marmor, marmoris are accented on the antepenultimate in the genitive case.

RULE XXVI.

Genitives in oris from nominatives in us and ur are accented on the antepenultimate; as, ebur, eboris, tempus, temporis, lepus, leporis, but comparatives in oris; as, majus, majoris are accented on the penult.

RULE XXVII.

When the last syllable of a word is changed to one other syllable, the accent remains the same; as, hominis, homini, hominem, homine, homines, hominum, facio, faciam, faciunt are all accented on the antepenultimate.

RULE XXVIII.

Genitive plural cases ending in arum, orum or erum are accented on the penultimate; as, stellarum, puerorum, dierum.

RULE XXIX.

Datives and ablatives in ebus and abus are accented on the penultimate; as, speciebus and filiabus.

RULE XXX.

Datives and ablatives in *ibus* and *ubus* are accented on the antepenultimate; as, *omnibus*, *tribubus*, *hominibus*.

Verbs:

The following rules apply only to forms which have more syllables than the second person singular indicative of their verb.

RULE XXXI.

Verbs ending in *ote* are accented on the *o*; as *estote*.

RULE XXXII.

Verbs ending in *umus* are accented on the antepenult; as, *volumus* and *possumus*.

RULE XXXIII.

A verb which has *a* in its penultimate is accented on the *a*; as, *amamus*, *feceramus*.

EXCEPTION:

The compounds of the verb *Do* which have *a* in the penultimate are accented on the antepenultimate; as, *circumdamus*; but forms ending in *bamus*, *batis*, *bare*, *batur* and *bamur* are accented on the penultimate; as, *dabatis*, *circumdabatur*. *Dederamus* and *dederatis* are accented on the penult.

RULE XXXIV.

A verb which has *e* for its penultimate is accented on the *e*; as, *monebam*, *moneret*, *venerunt*.

EXCEPTIONS:

Futures in *beris* or *bere* are accented on the antepenultimate; as, *amaberis*.

Verbs of the third conjugation, if they end in *ere*, *erem*, *eres*, *eret*, *erent*, and *erer*, are accented on the antepenultimate; as, *regerer*.

Verbs ending in *eris* are accented on the antepenultimate, if they be the present tense of the third conjugation; as, *regeris*.

Perfects, pluperfects and future perfects ending in *eram*, *eras*, *erat*, *erant*, *ero*, *eris*, *erit*, *erint* and *erim* are accented on the antepenultimate; as, *rexerim*.

Verbs ending in *eo* are accented according to Rule II.

RULE XXXV.

A verb which has *i* in the penultimate is accented on the antepenultimate; as, *audivimus*, *regimus*, *amaremini*, *audimini* and *audiamini*.

EXCEPTIONS:

The present and imperfect tenses of the fourth conjugation are accented on the penultimate; as, *nescimus*, *nescitis*, *audire*, *audirem*, *auditur*, but verbs ending in *mini* are accented on the antepenultimate; as, *audiamini*.

Perfects ending in *ivi* and *ivit* are accented on the penultimate; as, *petivi*, *petivit*, *audivi*, *audivit*.

Present subjunctives ending in *imus* and *itis* are accented on the penultimate; as, *adsimus*,

16 The Accent of Latin Words

adsitis, possimus, possitis, prosimus, propositis,
velimus, velitis, nolimus, nolitis, malimus, malitis.

Nolite and nolito are accented on the penult.

RULE XXXVI.

Perfects ending in *i* are accented on the penultimate; *as*, *confeci*, *effudi*, *impegi*, *adjuvi*, *admovi*, *abolevi*, *obsedi*, *effodi*, *effugi*, *perfudi*, *reliqui*.

EXCEPTIONS:

The following perfects are accented on the antepenultimate:

Those ending in *dedi*; *as*, *circumdedi*.

in *didi*; *as*, *condidi*, *creddidi*, *vendidi*.

in *steti*; *as*, *circumsteti*.

in *stiti*; *as*, *constiti*.

in *uli*; *as*, *contuli*, *pepuli*, *sustuli*, *compuli*,
perculi.

in *eri*; *as*, *peperi*, *reperi*, *comperi*.

in *bibi*; *as*, *combibi*, *imbibi*, *ebibi*.

in *fidi*; *as*, *diffidi*, *effidi*,

in *tudi*; *as*, *contudi*.

in *scidi*; *as*, *rescidi*.

in *igi*; *as*, *tetigi*, *pepigi*.

Abscidi from *abscido* is accented on the penultimate.

Abscidi from *abscindo* is accented on the antepenultimate.

Perfects ending in *cidi* from *cado* are accented on the antepenultimate; *as*, *cecidi*, *occidi*.

Perfects ending in *cidi* from *caedo* are accented on the penult; as, *cecidi*, *occidi*.

Pupugi, *repupugi*, *cecini*, *didici* and its compounds are accented on the antepenult.

Perfects ending in *ui* and *ii* are accented according to Rule II.

RULE XXVII.

Perfects ending in *it* have the accent of perfects ending in *i*; as, *confecit* has the accent of *confeci*.

RULE XXXVIII.

Contigit and *obtigit* are accented on the first syllable.

RULE XXXIX.

Supines, perfect participles and future participles are accented on the penultimate; as, *amatum*, *amatus*, *amaturus*, *acuturus*.

EXCEPTIONS:

Compounds of *datum*, *ratum*, *satum*, *rutum*, *itum*, *litum*, *quitum*, *situm* are accented on the antepenultimate; as, *circumdatus* from *circumdo*;

consitus and *consatus* from *consero*;

abitus, *obitus*, *introitum*, *reditum*, *proditum*, *subitus* from *eo*;

oblitus from *oblino*;

oblitus from *obliviscor* is accented on the penult;

nequitum from *nequeo*;

desitus from *desino*;

18 The Accent of Latin Words

obrutus, dirutus and erutus from ruo; concitus and excitus from cio or cieo may be accented either on the penultimate or the antepenultimate. It is better to accent accitus on the penultimate, and percitus on the antepenultimate.

Incitus is accented on the antepenultimate.

The supines and perfect participles in itum of verbs which have not ivi in the perfect are accented on the antepenult; as, sonitum, sonitus, monitum.

Final Syllables

RULE XL.

When a syllable or an enclitic such as que is added to a Latin word, the accent is placed on the syllable before the enclitic; as amátque, filióque, genítóque, hortíque, regnáque, verbáque.

EXCEPTIONS:

Some speakers make the following exceptions:

When an enclitic is added to nominatives and accusatives ending in a, the word may retain its own accent; as, verbaque may be accented on the syllable ver.

The word may retain its own accent also when an enclitic is added to—

vocatives of the second declension ending in e; as, Jacobeque;

nouns of the third declension ending in e; as, altareque and tentationeque;

adverbs ending in e coming from adjectives of the third declension; as, sublimeque;

verbs in e; as, docereque and regeque, but not the imperative singular of the second conjugation. Hence doceque is accented on the syllable ce.

Bene, male, mage, inferne, interne, and superne may retain their accent when an enclitic is added to them; as, beneque may be accented on the syllable be.

RULE XLI.

The following rule applies to words of which we have not spoken:

When the penultimate is followed by one consonant we must find the word in a dictionary and if in that book the penultimate be marked with a straight line, it is accented; as, the syllable ce in concedo.

If the penultimate be marked with a curve, the antepenultimate is accented; as in spiritus the antepenultimate has the accent. But genitives and vocatives ending in i of the second declension may be given the accent of the nominative, even if the penultimate vowel of the genitive or vocative be marked with a curve; as, Ambrosi, Virgili, ingeni for ingenii may be accented on the syllable before the final i.

20 The Accent of Latin Words

The penultimate of the following genitive cases is marked with a dash or straight line in a Latin dictionary:

heredis	from heres,
mercedis	" merces,
quietis	" quies,
requietis	" requies,
crateris	" crater,
halteris	" halter,
celetis	" celes,
lebetis	" lebes,
magnetis	" magnes,
custodis	" custos,
nepotis	" nepos,
sacerdotis	" sacerdos,
thoracis	" thorax.

The penultimate of the following genitive cases is marked with a curve in a Latin dictionary:

arietis	" aries,
parietis	" paries,
abietis	" abies,
segetis	" seges,
tegetis	" teges,
interpretis	" interpretes,
quadrupedis	" quadrupes,
conjugis	" conjux,
hepatis	" hepar,
nectaris	" nectar,
canonis	" canon,
tripodis	" tripus,
impotis	" impos,
compotis	" compos.

The Quantity of Some Syllables in Latin Verse

RULE XLII.

In a word of more than two syllables, an accented penultimate syllable is considered a long syllable in Latin verse; as, the syllable *ra* in *orator* and *la* in *appellavi*.

RULE XLIII.

A non-accented penultimate syllable is considered a short syllable in Latin verse; as, the syllable *ne* in *vulnero*, *vi* in *solvimus* and *do* in *edoces*.

RULE XLIV.

A syllable that would be accented, if it were in the penultimate of a word of more than two syllables, is also considered a long syllable in Latin verse, as the syllable *ra* in *oratoris*, and *pel* and *la* in *appellavimus*.

RULE XLV.

A syllable that would not be accented, if it were in the penultimate is considered a short syllable in Latin verse; as the syllable *ne* in *vulneramus* and *do* in *edoceo*.

BOOK 2.

THE SOUNDS OF LATIN LETTERS

When no name is given after the remarks after any number, the remarks are my own.

—The Author.

I.

The quality of a vowel is the sound of a vowel; as o in folly and wholly has a different quality.

The quantity of a Latin vowel or syllable is the duration of time which the Latins occupied in pronouncing a syllable or vowel. They pronounced some syllables rapidly and some slowly. A syllable or vowel is long by nature, when the Latins prolonged it twice the time required to pronounce a short syllable or a short vowel. A short vowel is one which the Latins pronounced rapidly. A short syllable is marked with a curved line over the vowel and a long syllable with a straight line over the vowel.

2.

Syllaba brevis est natura dum raptim vocalis enuntiatur, ut, pater. Longa dum moratur vox, ut, mater.

Alcuin.

3.

Syllabae longae duobus modis fiunt, natura et positione.

Natura quidem befarie aut productione vide-
licet singularium vocalium aut duarum con-
junctione quod diphthongum vocant.

Saint Bede, the Venerable.

4.

The quantity of a Latin vowel does not make known to us what sound the vowel had.

The following remarks will prove this assertion:

LATIN A.

Different Opinions with Regard to its Sound.

5.

The evidence at our disposal is not at all strong enough to allow us to determine with precision, under which class of sounds Latin a should be placed, nor yet how far its quality was altered by the consonants which accompanied it, nor even whether it had to some extent, a different quality as a long and as a short vowel. Lucilius says that the vowel a had the same sound when long and when short.

W. M. Lindsay,
The Latin Language.

6.

Seelmann gives to Latin a of the Imperial age, the sound of English a in man.

W. M. Lindsay.

7.

Lindsay tells us also that it is probable that a was pronounced like a in man in some positions, and like a in father in other positions.

8

Short a is pronounced like a in man.

W. J. Purton,
Pronunciation of Ancient Greek,
Translated from Dr. Blass's Work.

9.

Long a was like a in psalm.

Henry John Roby,
A Grammar of the Latin Language, Book I.

10.

The consensus of the Romance Languages indicates clearly that long a was pronounced substantially as in the English word father. In the absence of any specific evidence to the contrary, we may safely believe that short a had the same sound qualitatively.

Charles E. Bennett,
The Latin Language.

11.

Latin short a sound is nearly extinct in modern English, though it is very nearly heard in the second syllable of grandfather. The sound

of a in man is not of the same quality as the short a in question. The long sound of Latin a is the sound of a in the word father. The sound of a in father is exactly the same as the second a in grandfather, except as regards the time taken to pronounce it.

F. W. Westaway,
Latin Quantity and Accent.

12.

There is no difference in sound between long and short Latin a. In other words, their quantity and quality are the same. Latin short a is never pronounced like a in hat.

B. L. D'Ooge.

13.

Of the five vowels, the grammarians say that a, i and u, do not change their quality with their quantity.

De istis quinque litteris tres sunt quae sive breves sive longae ejusmodi sunt a, i, u; simili-
ter habent sive longae sive breves.

Pompei. Comm. ad Donat. Keil v. V. p. 101.

Francis E. Lord,
The Roman Pronunciation of Latin.

14.

E, Ae and Oe.

Different Opinions Regarding Their Sounds.
Latin long e is pronounced like ai in air.

26 The Accent of Latin Words

Latin short e is pronounced like e in get.

E. V. Arnold and R. S. Conway,
The Restored Pronunciation of Latin
and Greek, Cambridge, 1908.

15.

Latin long e is pronounced like Latin long i, that is, like e in equal.

Ipse sonus sic debet sonare quomodo sonat i littera.

Terentianus.

16.

Servius, in the 4th Century, A. D., tells us that only e and o change their sound with their quantity, and that Latin long e was pronounced like Latin i and that short e was pronounced like the diphthong ae which at his time was pronounced like e in end.

Pompeius ascribes the same statement to Terentianus Maurus. Sergius asserts the same as Servius.

The Modern Greeks give long e and long i the sound of e in equal. They pronounce epsilon or short e, like a in made, or like e in there, or like e in end. It is probable that e and i in the perfect veni had the sound of e in equal. It is probable also that e in venio had the sound of a in made or the sound of e in there, or the sound of e in end.

17.

Latin long e is pronounced like a in made, day and fay.

Many Latin Grammars.

18.

Cratinus, a poet of the Fifth Century B. C., represented the vowel sound in the bleating of sheep, by eta.

Charles E. Bennett.

19.

The vowel sound in the bleating of sheep seems to be the sound of e in there.

20.

Latin long e must have had a sound like English e in there.

Casserly's Latin Prosody.

21.

The sound of e in there is the sound of ai in fair, pair and a in dare. It is not the sound of ay in day and fay and payer. It is a prolongation of the sound of e in ferry, derrick, perishable and end. If we repeat or prolong a little the sound of e in end, as we do sometimes in singing, we shall pronounce the sound of e in there.

The vowel sounds are different in fay, fair, ferry; pay-er, pair, perishable; day, dare, derrick.

28 The Accent of Latin Words

22.

The Latin ae, the ordinary representative of the Greek ai, became hardly, if at all, distinguishable from e, just as the Greek ai was confounded with short e or epsilon.

Roby.

23.

In imperial times oe became confused with ae.

Roby.

24.

In the various dialects of Italy ae had been early reduced to a single sound of e.

Lindsay.

25.

The Romance languages indicate that in Vulgar Latin ae had become hardly distinguishable from an open e sound.

Lindsay.

26.

On Greek inscriptions we find epsilon for Latin ae from the middle of the second Century, A. D.

Lindsay.

27.

Ae was anciently sounded ai, but early in the time of the Empire it acquired the long sound of Latin e.

Oe became like ey in they. Both were confused in spelling with e; as, coena, caena or cena.

Allen and Greenough.

28.

Ae is pronounced like Latin long e. It is not pronounced like ai in aisle.

The pronunciation here recommended is that favored by Roby, Munro and Ellis.

Francis E. Lord,
The Roman Pronunciation of Latin.

29.

In the Latin there are numerous instances, before and during the classic period of the use of e for ae and oe, and it is to be noted that in the latest spelling e generally prevails.

Francis E. Lord.

30.

Oe occurs very rarely in Latin. It should not be used in the words caelum, maestus, femina, caelebs, caecus, caena or cena.

31.

The wall inscriptions of Pompeii show the greatest confusion both between ae and e, and between Greek ai and epsilon.

W. J. Purton.

32.

By the fourth century, A. D., ae had altered its character and had become a monophthong. The change had begun in the first century, A. D., or even earlier.

Charles E. Bennett,
The Latin Language.

30 The Accent of Latin Words

33.

At the period in which Latin ae became the simple sound, the Greek ai also had suffered the same fate.

W. J. Purton.

34.

The simple sound means the sound of a in made, or the sound of e in there, or the sound of e in end.

The Modern Greeks give the Greek diphthong ai the sound of a in made, or the sound of e in there, or the sound of e in end.

LATIN O.

Different Opinions Concerning Its Sound.

35.

There is some difference of opinion about Latin short o. Some authorities consider it to be merely the shortened form of the long o as in obey, but the weight of opinion is in favor of the o sound in not. There is no difference of quality in the o sound in note and obey.

Westaway.

36.

By the sound of o in obey we mean the sound of o in co-agent and co-eval.

37.

Short o should never be pronounced like English o in hot, rock, not. Latin short o was a genuine o sound. English o in obey will exemplify it.

Charles E. Bennett.

38.

Latin o has never the sound of o in hot.
Latin short o has the sound of o in wholly.
Latin long o has the sound of o in holy.

D'Ooge and Collar and Daniel.

39.

Latin short o was as o in wholly, but not as in holly.

Latin long o as o in more.

Francis E. Lord.

40.

Latin short o is pronounced like o in dot.

E. V. Arnold and R. S. Conway.

41.

Latin short o was nearly as o in dot.

Long o was a sound nearer to English aw than is the ordinary o in dote.

Roby.

42.

Latin short o was pronounced like o in dot.

Latin long o had a sound coming nearer to English aw than to English long o.

Augustus S. Wilkins and R. S. Conway.
Latin Language in Encyclopaedia Britannica.

32 The Accent of Latin Words

43.

English aw is the sound of aw in law, saw, gnaw and au in nautical. The sound of au in nautical is different from the sound of o in note and o in not.

44.

Short o was as o in not.

Cambridge Philological Society, 1906.
I and U.

45.

The vowel long i being the Latin representative of the Greek diphthong ei must have been pronounced like i in thine.

Patrick S. Casserly,
Latin Prosody.

46.

Many writers on Greek pronunciation teach, that the Greek proper diphthong ei was pronounced like long iota, which is the sound of e in equal and not the sound of i in thine. In the University of Cambridge, in 1542, it was forbidden to distinguish in sound ei from iota. Students were ordered by that University in 1542 to give ei and iota, the sound of e in equal.

W. J. Purton, in his work, The Pronunciation of Ancient Greek, tells us that already in the Roman period before our era, there was no distinction in pronunciation between iota and ei. He proves that at that time, long iota

and ei were both pronounced like e in equal.

With regard to the pronunciation of eleison, see number 58.

In eleison, ei is not a diphthong.

47.

Long i is like i in machine. Short i is the same sound shortened.

Roby.

48.

Nearly all Latin Grammarians teach that long i was pronounced like e in equal, and long u like oo in moon. Short i had the same sound as long i, or it was given the sound of i in it. Short u had the sound of long u, or it was pronounced like u in full. Y was pronounced nearly like i. Gu when preceded by n was pronounced gw; as, lingua is lingwa. Qu is pronounced kw. Su is pronounced sw in suadeo, suavis, suetus, suavitas and in their compounds and derivatives.

Position and Hidden Quantity.

49.

Vocalis ante duas consonantes longa est positione.

Vocalis longa est, si consona bina sequatur.

The word positione is understood after longa est in this verse.

Latin Grammar of Emmanuel Alvarez.

34 The Accent of Latin Words

50.

Vocalis ante duas consonantes positione longa est.

The Eton Latin Grammar.

51.

A syllable is long in quantity by position, when its vowel is followed by two consonants, or by j, x or z. Its vowel is also long in quantity by position, but its vowel may be short in quantity by nature. The syllable in is long in quantity in the word infelix, and long in quantity in the word inclytus, but the vowel i is short in quantity by nature in inclytus, and long in quantity in infelix. The syllable et is long in quantity in Latin hexameter verse, when it is followed by a word beginning with a consonant, but the vowel in et remains short in quantity by nature and it does not change its sound.

The first vowel in the following words is long by position, but short in quantity by nature, although the syllable containing it is long in quantity: cessi, missus, ussi, noster, vester, fuisti, estis from sum, essem from sum and tollo. The first vowel is short also in nux, dux, nex, lex and est from sum. When a syllable is long by position, the quantity of its vowel is not always determinable. The quantity of the vowel in such circumstances is said to be hidden.

52.

In the great majority of Latin words, a vowel followed by two consonants is short.

F. W. Westaway.

53.

Grammarians give us the following two rules: Vowels are long by nature before nf, ns, gm, nct and nx.

Vowels before nd, nt, gn, ss, st and other pairs of letters are short in quantity by nature, although such vowels and the syllable containing them are long by position.

There are so many exceptions to these rules that it is impossible to remember them.

Professor Charles E. Bennett gives many exceptions in the chapter on hidden quantity in his laudable work entitled the "Latin Language." The same Professor Bennett, who for eight years conducted summer courses for teachers at Cornell University, tells us that even college professors of eminence, often frankly admit their own ignorance of Latin vowel quantity, and proclaim their despair of ever acquiring a knowledge of it.

It is preferable, therefore, to give a vowel before two consonants, always its short sound, as is done in the English pronunciation of Latin.

X is considered two consonants. A mute and liquid combination like tr is not considered two consonants. The combination qu which is pronounced kw is not considered two consonants. The short sounds are

36 The Accent of Latin Words

a as in at,
e as in tent,
i as in it,
o as in not,
u as in full.

54.

A final short vowel before two consonants or j, x or z is nearly always considered a short syllable in Latin verse; as *praemia sperans*. *Bi* in *bijugus* and *ri* in *quadrijugus* are considered short syllables in Latin verse.

55.

Er followed by a consonant not *r* may be given the sound of *er* in *concerning*. *Ar* followed by a consonant not *r* may be always given the sound of *ar* in *part*. *Os* in *post* may be given the sound of *os* in *host*. *Or* followed by a consonant not *r*, has the sound of *or* in *cord*, *corporal* or *port*. *Quart* may be pronounced like *quart* in *quarter*; as, *quartus*. *Quanti* in *quantitas* and words derived from it may be given the sound of *quanti* in the English word *quantity*. *Quadr* is pronounced like *quadr* in *quadrant*, *quadrilateral* and *quadruped*.

Vowels Before One Consonant.

56.

It is very difficult to give Latin vowels before one consonant different sounds when they

are short in quantity and different sounds when they are long in quantity. It is hard enough to learn the general rules of Latin Prosody including the rules for final syllables, but even when we have acquired a knowledge of these, there remain to be learned a number of rules for the quantity of vowels at the beginning of words and in the middle of words. Few students will acquire a knowledge of these rules. Hence, it is preferable to give a vowel its short sound when it is not at the end of a syllable, and to give a vowel its long sound when it is at the end of a syllable. We have already given the short sounds. The long sounds are

a as in father,
e as a in made,
i as e in equal,
o as in open,
u as oo in moon.

From number 77 to the end of the book, we treat of the division of words into syllables.

If we prefer to do so, we may give a always the sound of a in father; o always the sound of o in open, or the sound of aw in law; e always the sound of e in there. We learn the same fact from number 1 to 45.

Final os in plural cases may be given the sound of os in host. Final es may be pronounced ez like es in presence. In the English pronunciation of Latin, final es has the sound of es in these.

38 The Accent of Latin Words

Quali may be given the sound of quali in qualify; as, qualitas.

DIPHTHONGS.

57.

It is well to pronounce ae and oe like Latin e in the same situation. Au has the sound of ou in cloud. Ei are two syllables; as, De-i. In hei and Pompei ei is pronounced like ei in rein. Ui are two syllables; as cui is coo-e, but qui is kwe. It is well to pronounce eu as two syllables with the accent on the e; as, ne-u-ter.

With regard to the Greek diphthong ei, see number 46. It is commendable to give the Greek diphthong ei the sound of e in equal.

58.

E-le-i-son, have mercy, is a Greek imperative called an aorist imperative and written eleeson in Greek. The e before s is eta. Hence, e-le-i-son is a word of four syllables and it does not contain the Greek diphthong ei as printed by mistake in Webster's Dictionary. In the Latin form of the word i is used for eta. The word is accented on the syllable le as, Alvarez Latin Grammar states, because in Greek the word has the acute accent on the syllable le. The first and second e in the word are pronounced like e in the Latin language. In speaking, the i in eleison is given the obscure sound of i in reticent. In singing, i is given the sound of e in equal. When the musical composition makes eleison a word of three syllables, i is not pronounced.

CONSONANTS.

Ancient and Changed Sounds of Consonants.

59.

C, ch, g, k, and qu.

In ancient Rome c was always pronounced like k, and g was like g in go. Quintilian says: "C has the same sound before all vowels." "As regards k, it should not be used." The Romans recognized k as a superfluous duplicate of c. No Roman grammarian mentions more than one sound of c. The grammarians affirm the same of g. Priscian says that k, q and c, have the same sound. It seems that not before the sixth century, A. D., except provincially, c before i, y, e, ae and oe was pronounced like s, and also like ch in the English words chase and cheap. In some dialects before the Christian era, c in this position had the sound of s, or ch in chase or cheap.

60.

Olim apud Latinos, litera c non solum in locum sed in sonum literae k plane pleneque substituebatur; nec assertione res eget.

Antiqui nunciabant scamnum, scenam tanquam si scriberentur cum k, skamnum, skenam.

Latin Irish Grammar,
Francis O'Malley, Rome, 1677.

61.

Not earlier than the sixth century, A. D., g before i, y, e, ae and oe, was like g in gem.

40 The Accent of Latin Words

We think it well for English speaking nations to pronounce c before i, y, e, ae and oe, like s; g before i, y, e, ae and oe like g in gem.

It would be difficult to make children or a large number of adults of any nation, pronounce c always like k, when they are singing in Latin.

The Italian sounds of sc and c before i or e are displeasing in many words to the ears of English speaking nations.

Ch was pronounced like k, or like kh in deck-hand. It is preferable now to pronounce ch like k. Qu is pronounced kw.

H, L, and R.

62.

H, l and r are pronounced as in the English language.

J.

63.

J was sometimes pronounced like the English consonant y, and sometimes it formed a diphthong with the vowel preceding it.

In the last century of the Roman Empire, j began to be pronounced like g in the Italian word giusto, which has the sound of g in gem. It is preferable now to give j the sound of j in joy.

M, N and NG.

64.

M and n are pronounced as in the English language.

N has the sound of ng in song, when it is followed by hard g; as in pango, distinguo. N has the sound of n in anxious, when it is followed by hard c, ch, qu or x; as in, vinco, finxi, anchora, relinquo.

The pronunciation of ns, nf, gn and final m is disputed.

65.

Ngu is pronounced ngw; as in lingua.

B, F, P, PH, BS, BT.

66.

B, f, and p are pronounced as in English.

Ph was pronounced like p, or like ph in uphill.

Ph became the equivalent of f, between 50 A. D. and 350 A. D.

Bs was like ps and bt like pt.

It is preferable now to pronounce ph as f, and bs and bt as they are pronounced in English words derived from Latin.

S.

67.

None of the Latin grammarians ever suggest that Latin s had anything but one and the

42 The Accent of Latin Words

same sound. There is hardly any evidence that s in classical Latin was pronounced like s in "to use." Z of the old Latin had probably the soft sound of s.

Lindsay.

68.

Corssen maintains that s between two vowels and after n, had a sound like English z.

Roby.

69.

At one time s between two vowels was probably sounded the same as English z.

Roby.

70.

It is preferable to pronounce s always like s in seen; but final s after n or r, may be given the sound of z; as s in ens, mons, mors, pars.

In words beginning with miser, and also in urbs, plebs, trabs, scobs, Caesar, causa, musa, rosa and laus, s may be given the sound of z.

Final es may be pronounced ez like es in presence.

Z.

71.

Z must have been pronounced like the Greek zeta.

Greek zeta was at different times and in different parts of Greece, pronounced z like z in prize, or zd like sd in wisdom; or dz as in adze, which is the sound of ds in pads.

About 300 B. C., z was pronounced in some parts of Greece like z in prize.

The Modern Greeks give z the sound of z in prize.

D, T, TH, TI, STI, XTI.

72.

D and t are pronounced as in English.

Th was like t or like th in hothouse.

T before i and a vowel was never pronounced like s before the sixth century, A. D. It is preferable now to pronounce th as in thin, and t before i and a vowel like s, but not sh. Hence, notio is pronounced no-se-o.

EXCEPTION:

When t is preceded by s or x, it is never pronounced s.

Hence, t in mixtio and hostia is pronounced t, not s.

V.

73.

At some time before the fifth century A. D., v seems to have passed from Spanish b to our v.

Lindsay.

74.

The sound of v consonant in Ancient Latin is a matter of dispute.

Ellis.

75.

Roby gives reasons to prove that v was pronounced like English w. Professor Francis E. Lord, in his work "The Roman Pronunciation of Latin" gives arguments to prove that v was not pronounced like w.

It is difficult for any nation except the English to give Latin v the sound of w. The best way now to pronounce Latin v is to pronounce it as v in vain.

X.

76.

X is pronounced ks, never gs.

X at the beginning of a word may be given the sound of z in zeal.

77.

The Division of Latin Words Into Syllables.
First Roman Method.
Simple Words.

RULE I.

When there are two or more consonants between vowels, all the consonants are joined to the following vowel; as, re-ctor, tra-ctor, a-ctor, dele-ctus, di-ctator, defe-ctus, vi-ctima, O-ctober, fa-ctum, pa-ctus, i-ctus, le-ctor, pi-ctura, do-ctor, sce-ptum, o-ptio, a-ptus, praece-ptum, pro-pter, scri-ptor, sti-gma, fra-gmentum, a-gmen, a-gnus, di-gnitas, i-gnoro, beni-gnitas, re-gnum, si-gnum,

cae-le-stis, manife-stus, ae-stimo, maje-stas, e-stis, ve-ster, ve-sper, pro-sperus, pa-stor, exi-stimo, ju-stus, ho-spes, no-ster, ru-sticus, no-stra, ve-stra.

X also is joined to the vowel following it; as, re-xi. Hence, in this method of division, cm, dm, gm, tm; cn, dn, gn, pn; ct, pt; bs, ps; bd, gd, phth, th and cg are joined to the following vowel. Hence, also s and all consonants following it are joined to the following vowel.

It is probable that the method of division given in Rule I, was used only sometimes in writing or printing, but not in speaking or singing.

EXCEPTION 1.

In writing, printing, speaking and singing, when the first consonant is l, m, n or r, it is joined to the preceding vowel; as, al-tus, om-nis, con-tra, ar-bor, mon-stra.

Mn is sometimes joined to the following vowel; as, o-mnis.

EXCEPTION 2.

Sd, sl and sr are always separated, that is, the first consonant is joined to the preceding vowel; as, Has-drubal, Uris-lavia, Is-ra-el.

EXCEPTION 3.

Doubled consonants like tt and ss are always separated; as, mit-to, mis-sus.

46 The Accent of Latin Words

RULE II.

A single consonant between two vowels is joined to the following vowel; as ma-ter, pa-ter.
Z is joined to the following vowel.

RULE III.

When two vowels come together they are divided, if they be not a diphthong; as au-re-us.

Second Roman Method.

RULE I.

When two or more consonants are between vowels, the first consonant is joined to the preceding vowel; as, rec-tor, trac-tor, ac-tor, delec-tus, dic-tator, defec-tus, vic-tima, Oc-tober, fac-tum, pac-tus, ic-tus, lec-tor, pic-tura, doc-tor, scep-trum, op-tio, ap-tus, prae-cep-tum, prop-ter, scrip-tor, stig-ma, frag-mentum, ag-men, ag-nus, dig-nitas, ig-noro, benig-nitas, reg-num, sig-num, caeles-tis, manifes-tus, aes-timo, majes-tas, es-tis, ves-ter, ves-per, pros-perus, pas-tor, exis-timo, jus-tus, hos-pes, nos-ter, rus-ticus, nos-tra, ves-tra, al-tus, om-nis, con-tra, ar-bor, mon-stra, mit-to, mis-sus, Is-ra-el.

X also is joined to the preceding vowel; as, rex-i.

By two consonants we do not mean br, cr, dr, fr, gr, pr, tr; bl, cl, fl, gl, pl, phl, phr, ch, ph, th, qu. These combinations of letters are

joined to the vowel following them; as, *consola-trix*.

EXCEPTIONS TO RULE I.

When *ct* follows a consonant, that consonant and *c* are both joined to the first vowel; as, *sanc-tus* and *junc-tum*.

When *pt* follows a consonant, that consonant and *p* are both joined to the preceding vowel; as, *scalp-tum*, *serp-tum*, *Redemp-tor*.

RULES II AND III.

They are the same as in the first method.

The second method of division is observed in Latin inscriptions and by ancient writers on Latin Prosody. It is followed by nearly all modern nations in dividing into syllables, words derived from Latin.

The English Method.

The English method is the second Roman method with the following exceptions which we shall call rules:

RULE A.

A single consonant after an accented non-penultimate *i* is joined to the *i*; as, *n* in *o-pin-i-o*, *c* in *Cic-e-ro*, and *s* in *vis-i-o*.

Hence, when accented *i* is followed by a consonant and two vowels, the consonant is joined

48 The Accent of Latin Words

to accented i; as, *con-dit-i-o*, *re-lig-i-o*.

In English words derived from Latin, a consonant following accented i, should be joined to the i, when i has the short sound; as, *re-ligion* is divided into *re-lig-ion* and pronounced *re-lij-un*; *condition* is divided into *con-dit-ion*, and pronounced *con-dish-un*.

When i has the sound of y, a consonant before i is joined to the preceding vowel; as, *genius* is divided into *gen-i-us*, and pronounced *gen-yus*. E in *genius* has the sound of e in *convene*.

RULE B.

A consonant preceded by an accented non-penultimate vowel and followed by the vowel u, is joined to the preceding vowel; as, s in *cas-u-i* and m in *fam-u-lus*, and m in *dom-u-i*.

The rule applies also when a is in the place of u, and when o is in the place of u; as, *Theb-a-is*, *Hip-poc-o-on*.

RULE C.

A single consonant after an accented non-penultimate vowel must be joined to the vowel when the consonant is followed by a vowel and a consonant; as, m in *Dom-i-nus*. The rule applies also when ae and oe are the preceding vowel sound, but it does not apply when u is the preceding vowel. It is well to make an exception when the preceding vowel is increment o or a in the dative and ablative plural; as, *o-pin-i-o-ni-bus*, *so-ci-e-ta-ti-bus*, vo-

ci-bus. It is preferable also to separate a verbal increment from the consonant following it; as, au-di-vi-mus, but join r and m to the preceding accented antepenultimate vowel in the endings er-i-mus, er-i-tis, and im-i-ni.

What applies to a single consonant in rules A, B and C, applies also to a consonant followed by e or r; as t in vitrea and c in Socrates.

In the English method, ubl and gl, are divided ub-l and g-l as, pub-li-cus, and j and z are considered single consonants.

By accented vowels we mean primary or secondary accented vowels.

COMPOUNDS.

First Method of Division.

Compounds are separated into their component parts; as, sic-ut, prod-est, ob-it, ad-este, red-it, ob-latus, ab-luo, red-emptum, ab-rumpo, pot-est, pot-ens.

Second Method.

Compounds are divided as simple words are divided in the second method of division of simple words, but prepositional compounds are separated into their component parts when the preposition ends in a consonant, and the next letter of the compound is l or r; as ob-latus, ab-rumpo.

Such compounds are compounds of ab, ob, sub and ad.

EXCEPTION:

Unaccented *de*, *prae*, *re*, *se*, *di* and *pro* are separated in their compounds from an *s* following them; as *re-scribo*, *re-specto*, *prae-scribo*.

The exception, of course, does not apply to *ss*.

English Method.

A compound is separated into its parts when the first part ends with a consonant. If the first part ends with a vowel, the compound is divided like a simple word according to the English method of division; as, *def-e-ro*, *circum-ago*, *sub-eo*, *ob-it*, *ad-este*, *prod-est*, *pot-ens*.

It is well to divide *pro* at the beginning of a word, from the consonant *c*; as, *pro-ce-da-mus*, not *proc-e-da-mus*.

EXCEPTION:

Unaccented *de*, *prae*, *re*, *se*, *di* and *pro* are separated in their compounds from an *s* following them; as *re-scribo*, *re-specto*, *prae-scribo*.

The exception, of course, does not apply to *ss*.

In the English language the prefixes *de*, *prae*, *pre*, *re*, *se*, *di* and *pro*, are separated from *s*, not only when they are unaccented, but also when they have both the accent and the long sound; as *pré-script*, *pre-scríbe*, *re-spect*.

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